investment has been made in it. Therefore, we want to sustain that. We are now self-reliant in heavy water. We do not have to import heavy water any more. At one stage, we imported heavy water from Russia also when I was Ambassador there. But things are now very different.

I can assure my friend that we believe a great deal in our own technology. We believe a great deal that Indian scientists and technologists will be able to cope with all the challenges. We are conscious of the fact that some direct and indirect pressures are exerted to deviate us from the path that we have chosen for ourselves. When I say "ourselves", I mean the entire nation and not the Government.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Programmes Launched On The World Health Day

*223. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Health Day was observed in the country on the 7th April, 1997;

(b) if so, the details of the programmes and schemes being implemented in the country for the public; and

(c) what steps are being taken or are proposed to be taken by Governemt to prevent the dangerous diseases like cholera, dengue, malaria, AIDS, TB, cancer etc?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) The World Health Day was observed in the country on 7th April, 1997. The theme for the current year was "Emerging Infectious Diseases - Global Alert, Global Response". A number of programmes were arranged which included:—

1. Organization of a public seminar on emerging infectious diseases by the National Institute of Communicable Diseases.

2. Organization of an exhibition by the Central Health Education Bureau.

3. Organization of a Health Check Camp at Central Health Education Bureau. A drama was also staged to focus attention of the viewers on issues relating to emerging infection.

4. Circulation of a backgrounder on the theme of the World Health Day, to mark the occasion.

5. Release of Special issues of Swasthya Hind and Arogya Sandesh, giving full information about the emerging infectious diseases for the professionals and the community.

6. Release of full page advertisements in all the Newspapers giving messages from Hon'ble Prime Minister, Hon'ble Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Secretary (Health) and Director General of Health Services.

7. Organization of Radio and T.V. Talks and special messages given by Hon'ble Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare on T.V.

The State Governments were also requested to organise similar programmes.

There are currently ten major National Health Programmes under implementation in the country which seek to prevent, control/eradicate communicable diseases like Malaria, Filaria, T.B., Leprosy, AIDS and also non communicable diseases like Blindness, Iodine Deficiency Disorders, Mental Health, Cancer etc. The National Family Welfare Programmes have also been under implementation, since 1951 with a view to stabilize the population and they have been augmented to give a focus to reproductive and child health needs.

(c) The National Programmes for Malaria, AIDS, T.B. and Cancer are being implemented according to their approved pattern of assistance.

Malaria:- The budget for Malaria has been increased and external aid has been availed of to be able to improve vector control measures, build up awareness, promote personal protection and involve the community.

Tuberculosis:- A Tuberculosis control project envisaging Directly Observed Short Course Chemotherapy (DOTS) covering a population of 271 million in 102 districts has been launched in March, 1997. The project is assisted by the World Bank.Government has also approved the change in the funding policies for the Tuberculosis. Programme and for the first time the programme will fund 100% supply of drugs to the States. This is a major step which will help maintain uniform supply of Tuberculosis drugs in the endemic areas of the country.

AIDS:- For surveillance of HIV infection, HIV testing facilities exist in 62 Surveillance centres all over the country. 55 Sentinel sites are attached to these centres to monitor the trend of HIV infection among various high risk groups of population. The establishment of 154 Zonal Blood Testing Centres, modernization of 815 Blood Banks, establishment of 40 Blood Component Separation Facilities and promotion of voluntary blood donation have been given a thrust. In addition 504 STD Clinics have been strengthened and training of doctor and laboratory technicians on a wide scale has also been undertaken.

Cancer:- The following important initiatives are being continued to give an impetus to cancer control activities:-

1. Augmentation of Regional Cancer Centres.

2. Development of Oncology Wings in the medical colleges.

3. Installation of Cobalt-60 teletherapy equipment.

Implementation of District Cancer Control Projects.

Cholera and Dengue are seasonal diseases and the control of the same is a public helath responsibility discharged by the State Governemnts. The Central Government gives them guidelines on the control and management of diseases and alerts them about important measures that need to be taken on a location specific basis.

विदेशों में बसे भारतीय मूल के लोगों को संरक्षण प्रदान किया जाना

*224. **श्री अजीत जोगी:**
श्री मूलचन्द मीणा:

क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) विभिन्न देशों में बसे भारतीय मूल के लोगों की देश-वार संख्या कितनी है;

(ख) सरकार द्वारा उन्हें संरक्षण प्रदान किए जाने हेतु क्या प्रयास किए जा रहे हैं;

(ग) क्या पाकिस्तान, अफगानिस्तान, कुवैत, बंगलादेश इत्यादि जैसे देशों से भारतीय मूल के लोगों के साथ द्वितीय श्रेणी के नागरिकों की तरह व्यवहार किए जाने की शिकायतें मिली हैं;

(घ) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी तथ्य क्या है और सरकार इस संबंध में संबंधित सरकारों के साथ क्या कदम उठा रही है और उनके क्या परिणाम निकले हैं; और